



Chapter 7: Business establishments



Chapter 7: Business Establishments

This chapter provides information on the number of service, retail, and other businesses in South Wilmington, and expected sales and consumer spending in 2005 at these businesses. The chapter also includes information on the number of employees working within South Wilmington.

All information in the chapter was collected from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Business Information Solutions (BIS). ESRI BIS data is extracted from a list of businesses licensed through infoUSA and represents numbers as of January, 2005. According to ESRI, infoUSA collects and maintains its business database by using several sources, including directory listings (e.g., business white pages); annual reports; Securities and Exchange Commission information; federal, state, and municipal government data; business magazines, newsletters, and newspapers; and U.S. Postal Service information. infoUSA conducts telephone verification with each business annually to ensure accurate and complete information (ESRI, 2005). Retail trade information in the chapter includes businesses classified according to the 31 major industry groups identified by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For additional information on NAICS, including classification definitions, visit the following Web site:
<http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naics.html>.

The information in this chapter is intended to provide an overview of the business services available in South Wilmington; these values may not be exact figures. Additionally, definitions used by ESRI BIS may skew the number of types of businesses in South Wilmington; for example, a gas station selling snacks and sodas may qualify as a “food and beverage store.” The ESRI BIS data represents the best available information and, again, is included to provide an *estimate* of available services.

The study area for which the ESRI data was obtained was drawn to match the area defined by the South Wilmington SAMP Project Area shown in Figure 1.1.; for the remainder of Chapter 7, references to “South Wilmington” represent the area illustrated in Figure 1.1., which includes South Wilmington as well as the New Castle/Route 9 corridor developments.

South Wilmington Key Numbers:

Total number of businesses: 229	Number of construction businesses: 16
Total number of employees: 4,688	Number of manufacturing businesses: 14
Number of service businesses: 90	Number of transportation businesses: 18
Number of retail businesses: 72	Number of wholesale trade businesses: 33
Automobile and accessory stores: 15	
Restaurants and bars: 10	
Food and beverage stores: 9	
Gas stations: 4	
Clothing stores: 0	
General merchandise stores: 0	

Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions, 2005

7.a. Business Summary

In 2005, a total of 229 businesses were located in South Wilmington; these businesses employed a total of 4,688 people (Table 7.1.).

As shown in Table 7.1., 56 businesses in South Wilmington fell into the “other services” category, meaning that businesses providing “other services” represented the largest percentage of South Wilmington businesses (Figure 7.1.). “Other services” includes personal, business, miscellaneous repair, and social services, as well as museums; art galleries; membership organizations; engineering, accounting, research, management, and related services; and services not classified elsewhere. The next largest percentage of South Wilmington businesses were involved in wholesale trade, followed by establishments providing automotive services. In 2005, there were no general merchandise stores, apparel and accessory stores, securities brokers, insurance carriers, or legal service providers in South Wilmington.

A total of 2,054 people, or 43.8 percent of all people working in South Wilmington in 2005, were government employees (Figure 7.2.). The next category of businesses in South Wilmington employing the most people was wholesale trade, followed by manufacturing and construction companies. The business categories employing the fewest number of people were furniture and home furnishing retailers, hotels, and banks.

Business category	Number of businesses	Number of employees
Agriculture and mining	6	68
Construction	16	309
Manufacturing	14	390
Transportation	18	178
Communication	1	0
Electric, gas, water, and sanitary services	3	91
Wholesale trade	33	463
Home improvement	5	92
Food stores	4	36
Auto dealers, gas stations, and auto aftermarkets	14	75
Furniture and home furnishings	1	12
Eating and drinking places	14	104
Miscellaneous retail	4	33
Banks, savings, and lending institutions	1	11
Real estate, holding, or other investment offices	5	30
Hotels and lodging	1	9
Automotive services	20	117
Motion pictures and amusements	3	104
Health services	3	204
Education institutions and libraries	1	45
Other services	56	261
Government	6	2,054
Other	1	2
Total	229	4,688

Table 7.1. Number of businesses and employees for each business category in South Wilmington.
Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions, 2005

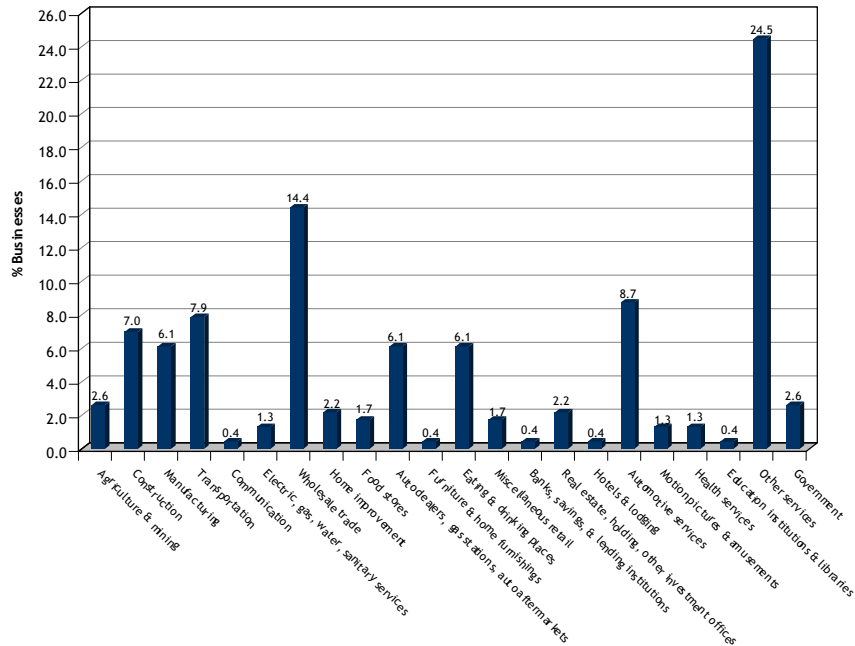


Figure 7.1. Percentages of businesses in South Wilmington by business category.
Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions, 2005

◆ Most South Wilmington businesses provided “other services.”

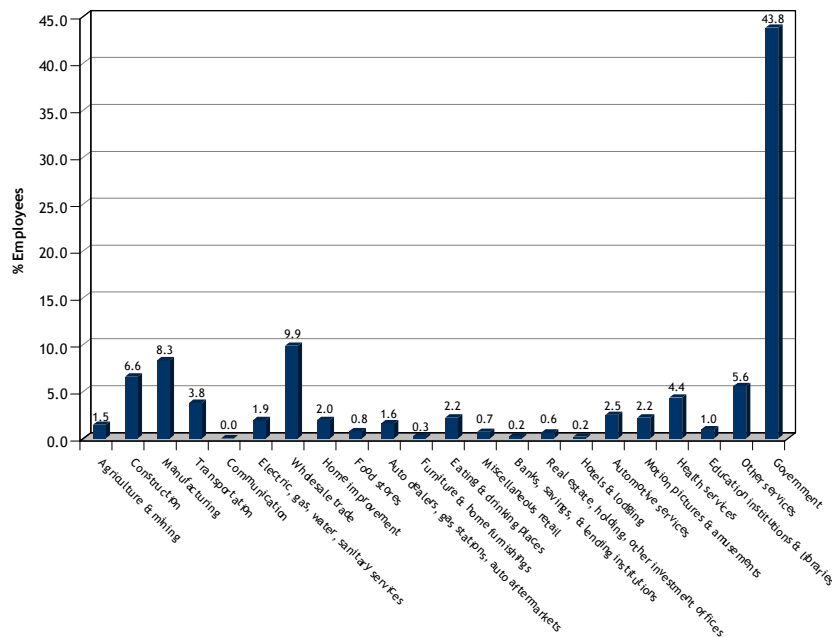


Figure 7.2. Percentages of employees by business category in South Wilmington.
Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions, 2005

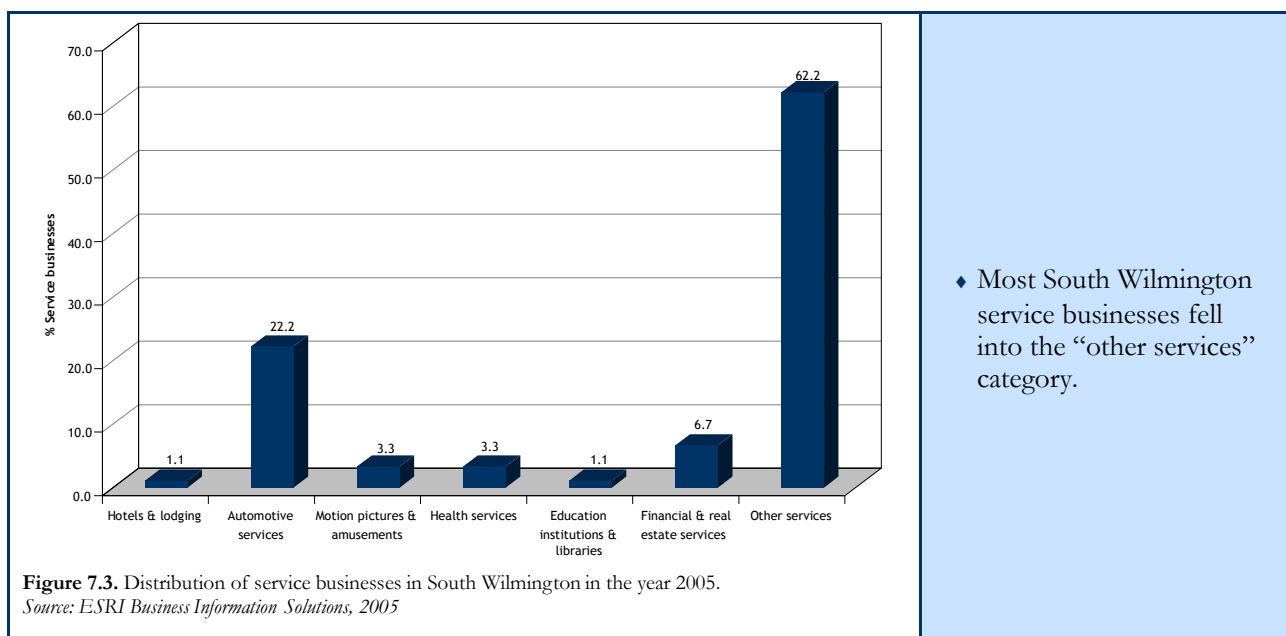
◆ Government organizations employed the most people working in South Wilmington.

7.b. Service Businesses

As characterized by ESRI, service businesses include those establishments that provide lodging, automotive services, entertainment services, health services, legal services, educational services, and “other” services; percentages of these businesses are shown in Figure 7.3.

Most service businesses in South Wilmington fell into the “other services” category in 2005. The next most common type of service business in South Wilmington included businesses providing automotive services.

There were three motion picture and amusement establishments in South Wilmington in 2005. South Wilmington had a total of six businesses that were involved with financial and real estate services, including one bank and five real estate agencies. Also, there was one education institution and one hotel in 2005 in South Wilmington.



7.c. Retail Trade Establishments

As noted at the beginning of this chapter, ESRI BIS retail trade information classifies businesses within the study area according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which includes 31 industrial sectors and multiple sub-sectors.

In 2005, there were 72 retail trade establishments in South Wilmington (some of which were also classified as “service” businesses and thus may also be included in the counts in the previous section).

The largest sector of retail business in South Wilmington included automobile dealers and accessory stores (see Table 7.2. and Figure 7.4.). Of the 15 businesses involving automobiles, seven were

dealerships; seven sold auto parts, accessories, and tires; and one sold motor vehicles other than automobiles.

In 2005, there were 13 electronics and appliance stores in South Wilmington, making this the second largest retail business sector in the area. There were ten food and drink establishments in South Wilmington in 2005. Most of these establishments (seven total) were limited-service eating places; none were full-service restaurants. There was one bar in South Wilmington.

In 2005, there were nine businesses that fell into the NAICS food and beverage industry. According to the NAICS classification, industries in the food and beverage store sector usually retail food and beverages merchandise from “fixed point-of-sale” locations and have special equipment such as freezers, refrigerated display cases, or refrigerators for displaying food and beverages (U.S. Census Bureau, 2002). Of the nine food and beverage stores in South Wilmington, four were identified as being grocery stores; three sold specialty foods; and two were beer, wine, and liquor stores.

Other retail businesses in South Wilmington in 2005 included 10 home improvement/lawn and garden stores, four gas stations, two home furnishing stores, and two health and personal care stores. There were four “miscellaneous” retail businesses, which included one florist, one office supply/stationery store, and two businesses that fell into the category of “other.” South Wilmington also had three non-retail stores, including two vending machine operators and one direct selling establishment.

Retail businesses not found in South Wilmington included general merchandise stores, such as department stores, and clothing, shoe, or luggage stores. South Wilmington also did not have any sporting goods, hobby, book, or music stores.

Business category	Number of businesses
Automobile dealers and accessory stores	15
<i>Automobile dealers</i>	7
<i>Other motor vehicle dealers</i>	1
<i>Auto parts, accessories, and tire stores</i>	7
Home furnishing stores	2
Electronic and appliance stores	13
Home improvement/lawn and garden stores	10
<i>Building material and supplies dealers</i>	9
<i>Lawn and garden equipment and supplies stores</i>	1
Food and beverage stores	9
<i>Grocery stores</i>	4
<i>Specialty food stores</i>	3
<i>Beer, wine, and liquor stores</i>	2
Health and personal care stores	2
Gasoline stations	4
Miscellaneous stores and retailers	4
<i>Florists</i>	1
<i>Office supplies, stationery, and gift stores</i>	1
<i>Other miscellaneous store retailers</i>	2
Non-store retailers	3
<i>Vending machine operators</i>	2
<i>Direct selling establishments</i>	1
Food and drink establishments	10
Total	72

Table 7.2. Number of retail trade businesses in South Wilmington.
Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions, 2005

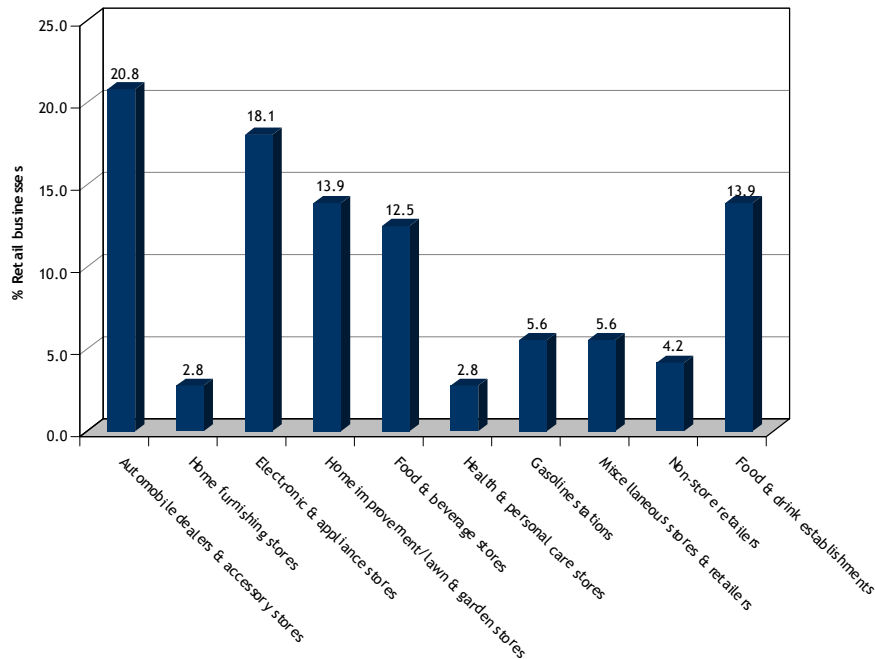


Figure 7.4. Distribution of retail businesses in South Wilmington.
Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions, 2005

- ◆ Most South Wilmington retail businesses were in the automotive industry.
- ◆ The second most common type of retail business in South Wilmington was electronics and appliance stores.

7.d. “Other” Businesses

This section discusses businesses not captured as “service” or “retail” establishments. All together, these “other” businesses employed over three-quarters of people who worked in South Wilmington in 2005.

As shown in Figure 7.5., the largest percentage of “other” businesses in South Wilmington included those businesses involved in wholesale trade; the 33 businesses involved in the wholesale trade industry employed 463 people. The next largest number of other businesses in South Wilmington included those in the transportation sector, followed by those businesses involved in construction.

Also in South Wilmington in 2005, there were six businesses in the agriculture and mining industry; three businesses providing electric, gas, water, and sanitary services; and one business in the communication field (see Table 7.1.). While there were only six government establishments in South Wilmington, government was the largest employer in the area, employing nearly 44 percent of all people who worked in South Wilmington.

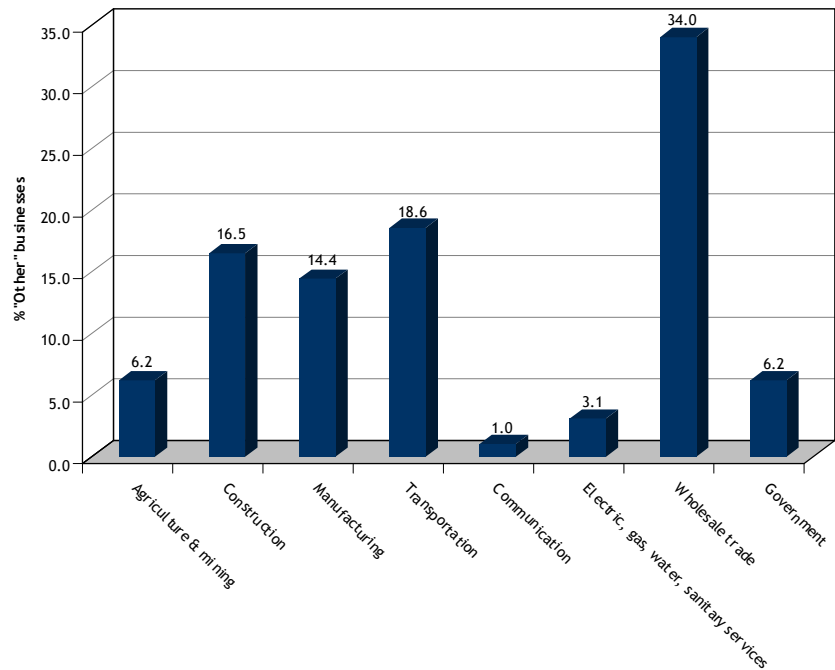


Figure 7.5. Distribution of “other” businesses in South Wilmington.
Source: ESRI Business Information Solutions, 2005

♦ Most “other” South Wilmington businesses were in the wholesale trade industry.